

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STAFF ANALYSIS

BILL #: PCB RPC 17-01 Official Florida Statutes

SPONSOR(S): Rules & Policy Committee

TIED BILLS: **IDEN./SIM. BILLS:** SB 500

REFERENCE	ACTION	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR or BUDGET/POLICY CHIEF
Orig. Comm.: Rules & Policy Committee		Nincehelser	Birtman

SUMMARY ANALYSIS

The bill is drafted by the Division of Law Revision and Information of the Office of Legislative Services to prospectively adopt the Florida Statutes 2017 and designate the portions thereof that are to constitute the official statutory law of the state. The adoption act amends ss. 11.2421, 11.2422, 11.2424, and 11.2425, Florida Statutes, and has the effect of curing any title or single subject defects that may have existed in an act as originally passed.

The bill prospectively adopts all statutes of a general and permanent nature passed through the 2016 Regular Session together with corrections, changes, and amendments to and repeals of the provisions of the 2016 Florida Statutes enacted in additional Reviser's bill(s) by the 2017 Legislature. The bill adopts as official statutory law of the state those portions of the statutes that are carried forward from the regular edition published in 2016, which thus serve as the best evidence of the law.

Legislation passed in the 2017 Regular Session, which will have occurred since the publication of the 2016 edition, is not adopted as the official statutory law of the state and serves as prima facie evidence of the law until it is adopted in 2018.

The bill has no fiscal impact.

The bill becomes effective on the 60th day after adjournment sine die.

FULL ANALYSIS

I. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS

A. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

The 2017 adoption act is drafted by the Division of Law Revision and Information of the Office of Legislative Services to prospectively adopt the Florida Statutes 2017 and designate the portions thereof that are to constitute the official statutory law of the state. The adoption act amends ss. 11.2421, 11.2422, 11.2424, and 11.2425, F.S., and has the effect of curing any title or single subject defects that may have existed in an act as originally passed.¹ The adoption act is usually enacted annually during each regular session.

The adoption act provides a 1-year curing period for title or single subject defects before statutory material becomes the best evidence of the law. This is consistent with the decision by the Legislature, beginning in 2000, to publish the Florida Statutes on an annual basis and to have the Division of Statutory Revision submit an adoption act annually, rather than every 2 years.

The 2017 adoption act prospectively adopts all statutes of a general and permanent nature passed through the 2016 Regular Session together with corrections, changes, and amendments to and repeals of provisions of 2016 Florida Statutes enacted in additional Reviser's bill(s) by the 2017 Legislature. The bill adopts as official statutory law of the state those portions of the statutes that are carried forward from the regular edition published in 2016, which thus serve as the best evidence of the law.

Any "statute of a general and permanent nature" enacted prior to the period since publication of the last adopted regular edition of the Florida Statutes that does not appear in the current edition stands repealed, both by logic of the system and by the operation of s. 11.2422, F.S.²

The adopted statutes that have been enacted, amended, or repealed in a session occurring subsequent to publication of the 2016 edition are prima facie evidence of the law in all courts of the state. For this material, the enrolled acts stand as best evidence of the law. Therefore, legislation passed in the 2017 Regular Session, which will have occurred since the publication of the 2016 edition, is not adopted as the official statutory law of the state and serves as prima facie evidence of the law.

Material passed in a session occurring since publication of the 2016 edition must wait one more year before being adopted, and the session law form of that material will remain the best evidence of the law for that material.

B. SECTION DIRECTORY:

Section 1 amends s. 11.2421, F.S., to adopt as the official statutory law of the state the 2017 Florida Statutes, which include the 2016 Florida Statutes and Reviser's Bill(s) enacted during the 2017 Legislative Session.

¹ The adoption of the *Florida Statutes* cures title defects that existed in an act as originally passed. See *State ex rel. Badgett v. Lee*, 156 Fla. 291, 22 So.2d 804 (1945). Thus, general legislation must be attacked on this ground only during the period between its original enactment and its subsequent adoption as the official law of the state. An act with a title defect is considered valid only from adoption and not from the date of original enactment. See *Thompson v. Intercounty Tel. & Tel. Co.*, 62 So.2d 16 (Fla. 1952). Analogously, once reenacted as a portion of the *Florida Statutes*, a statute is no longer subject to challenge on the ground that it violates the single subject requirement of s. 6, Art. III of the State Constitution. See *State v. Combs*, 388 So.2d 1029 (Fla. 1980); *Loxahatchee River Environmental Control District v. School Board of Palm Beach County*, 515 So.2d 217 (Fla. 1987); *State v. Johnson*, 616 So.2d 1 (Fla. 1993).

² See *National Bank v. Williams*, 38 Fla. 305, 20 So 931 (1896). Section 11.2423, F.S., provides that no special or local statute, or statute, local, limited or special in its nature, shall be repealed via reviser's bill.

Section 2 amends s. 11.2422, F.S., to repeal all statutes of a general and permanent nature enacted by the State of Florida at or prior to the 2016 Regular session that are not included in the 2017 Florida Statutes. This does not include any laws adopted during the 2017 regular legislative session.

Section 3 amends s. 11.2424, F.S., to detail that the laws adopted during the 2017 Regular Session have full effect and are not repealed by section 2 of the bill.

Section 4 amends s. 11.2425, F.S., to detail that the adoption of the 2017 Florida Statutes shall not affect any right that accrued under a statute before it was repealed by the 2017 Florida Statutes, nor will it affect any civil remedy where a suit is pending.

Section 5 provides for an effective date.

II. FISCAL ANALYSIS & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE GOVERNMENT:

1. Revenues:

None.

2. Expenditures:

None.

B. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:

1. Revenues:

None.

2. Expenditures:

None.

C. DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PRIVATE SECTOR:

None.

D. FISCAL COMMENTS:

The adoption act prospectively adopts the Florida Statutes 2017 as an official document. It has no fiscal impact on state or local governments or on the private sector.

III. COMMENTS

A. CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES:

1. Applicability of Municipality/County Mandates Provision:

Not applicable because the adoption act does not require counties or cities to spend funds or take action require the expenditure of funds, reduce the authority of counties or cities to raise revenue in the aggregate, or reduce the percentage of a state tax shared with counties or cities.

2. Other:

None.

B. RULE-MAKING AUTHORITY:

The adoption act does not implicate authority for any agency to adopt rules.

C. DRAFTING ISSUES OR OTHER COMMENTS:

None.

IV. AMENDMENTS/ COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE CHANGES